

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2008. Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16-18 and 21-25 are pending in the application. Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 21-22 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 6, 13-14, 16-18 and 23-25 are rejected and claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant responds to the Office Action as follows.

Response to Objection to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of an informality in line 1 of claim 25. Claim 25 is cancelled in this Amendment and accordingly withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirotori, U.S. Patent No. 4, 818,907. Claim 1 as amended incorporates subject matter of objected claim 2. Accordingly, allowance of amended claim 1 and dependent claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0181155, and claims 13, 14, 17 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hong, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0222712. Claims 13-14 and 23 are cancelled and claim 17 as amended is dependent upon objected claim 4, which has been amended to independent form. Allowance of claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shirotori, U.S. Patent No. 4, 818,907. Claims 5 and 6 are dependent upon allowable claim 1 and accordingly withdrawal of the rejection of the rejection of claims 5-6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitz, U.S. Patent No. 5,235, 482, and claims 13, 23, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagi, U.S. Patent No. 5,654,847. Claim 13, 23, 24 and 25 are

cancelled and accordingly withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Codilian, U.S. Patent No. 6,697,217. Claims 13, 14, 16 and 24 are cancelled and claim 17 as amended is dependent upon allowable claim 4. Based upon the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13, 14, 16, 17 and 24 is respectfully requested.

Response to Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 21 and 22 are allowable and thus a Notice of Allowance therefor is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3 and 4 are objected to as discussed above. Subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1 and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claim 4 is amended to independent form and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

New claims 26-32 are added. Favorable action with respect to new claims 26-32 is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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